

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /130 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:BCROGERS:SM X20849

APPROVED BY ACT. SEC. RUSH

AF/E:EJSCHREIBER

AF:DDNEWSOM

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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R 172208Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, ET

SUBJ: US-SOMALI RELATIONS; ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY: IN CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY, SRC MEMBER JELLE PLEDGED SOMALIA WOULD NEVER ATTACK ETHIOPIA FIRST AND REITERATED OFT-REPEATED SOMALI REQUEST FOR USG TO INTERVENE WITH IEG RE DISPUTE. JELLE SAID GSDR GREATLY VALUED GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS AND HOPED THEY WOULD IMPROVE. JELLE ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANT ROLE US AID PLAYED IN SOMALIA IN PAST AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD RESUME SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. LT. COL. JELLE PAID COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY RUSH DECEMBER 13. AFTER INITIAL PLEASANTRIES, JELLE LAUNCHED INTO 35 MINUTE MONOLOGUE COVERING CORRUPTION AND TRIBAL RIVALRIES OF ANCIENT REGIME, SAVIOR ROLE OF MILI-
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TARY, AND IMPORTANCE OF GREATER SOMALIA CONCEPT TO SOMALI

PEOPLE. HE ACCUSED IEG OF AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA AND SAID SOMALI PEOPLE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY UNITED STATES ARMED SOMALIA'S POTENTIAL ENEMY. HE MENTIONED CURRENT SOMALI RUMOR THAT US FAMINE RELIEF IN ETHIOPIA IN FACT GOING TO FEED ARMY. JELLE PLEDGED SOMALIA WOULD NEVER ATTACK ETHIOPIA FIRST. SOMALIA, HE STATED, WAS TOO BUSY FIGHTING POVERTY AND DISEASE TO FIGHT WAR. SINCE ETHIOPIA WAS MUCH RICHER, HAD LARGER, BETTER EQUIPPED ARMY AND WAS MUCH MORE POPULOUS, GSDR WOULD BE FOOLISH TO

INITIATE ATTACK. SOMALIA, THEREFORE, SOUGHT PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. JELLE EMPHASIZED GSDR SUPPORT OF OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WHOSE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY IEG.

3. JELLE OUTLINED GSDR'S NON-ALIGNED POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE CITED SOMALI SUPPORT OF PAKISTAN IN INDO-PAKISTAN CONFLICT AS EXAMPLE THAT GSDR WAS NOT SOVIET PUPPET.

4. JELLE NOTED GREAT VALUE GSDR ATTACHES TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE. HE PRAISED IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY PAST US ECONOMIC AID TO SOMALIA AND APPEALED FOR UNITED STATES TO RESUME PROMINENT AID POSITION THERE. JELLE CLOSED BY INVITING ACTING SECRETARY TO VISIT SOMALIA.

5. ACTING SECRETARY THANKED JELLE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD WILL AND STATED THAT UNITED STATES SHARED SOMALI DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. ACTING SECRETARY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THA GSDR SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE AND EMPHASIZED US BELIEF THAT BOTH SIDES WISHED TO AVOID ARMED CONFLICT. IN CLOSING, HE SAID THAT WHILE DISPUTE PRIMARILY AFRICAN CONCERN, UNITED STATES WAS READY TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP BOTH SIDES RESOLVE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY.

COMMENT: MOST OF JELLE'S LONG DISCOURSE COVERED WELL-KNOWN GROUND. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF LATER, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR ADDOU STRESSED PARTICULARLY JELLE'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRAISE OF PAST US AID. JELLE'S STATEMENT, AMBASSADOR SAID, WAS IMPORTANT SIGN SRC VALUES US CONTRIBUTION AND HOPES FOR BETTER BILATERAL (READ AID) RELATIONS IN FUTURE. IMPETUS FOR PRAISE OF UNITED STATES MUCH MORE LIKELY CAME FROM ADDOU THAN ANY SRC POLICY DECISION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE246093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BCROGERS:SM X20849
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731220/aaaaaomk.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOMALI RELATIONS; ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, ET
To: MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005